

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT**  
**ROUTING SLIP**

TO:		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DCI		X		
2	DDCI		X		
3	EXDIR				
4	D/ICS				
5	DDI		X		
6	DDA				
7	DDO				
8	DDS&T				
9	Chm/NIC		X		
10	GC				
11	IG				
12	Compt				
13	D/OLL	X			
14	D/PAO				
15	D/PERS				
16	VC/NIC				
17	D/OSWR/DI		X		
18	NIO/NP		X		
19	EX				
20					
21					
22					
SUSPENSE		Date			

Remarks

Executive Secretary

2 June 86

Date

3637 (10-81)

STAT

WILLIAM L. ARMSTRONG  
COLORADO

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

Executive Registry
86- 2333X

May 20, 1986

Mr. William J. Casey  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Casey:

As reports of the extent of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in the Soviet Union continue to grow, I am deeply concerned about the methods which may be used to clean up the surrounding contaminated areas. I would like to call your attention to an article that appeared in the May 12, 1986 issue of Time magazine. In referring to an earlier suspected nuclear accident in the Soviet Union, the article states:

"Whatever the cause of the wasteland, a few years after the disaster, the government sent death squads of prisoners to cover up the contaminated soil with sand. The workers were housed in special barracks, and many probably died from intense doses of radiation."

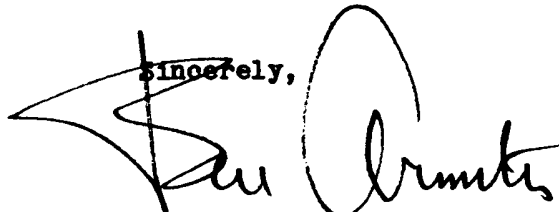
In 1983, the State Department reported that some 4 million prisoners - including 10,000 political prisoners - were being held in more than 1,100 prisons and labor camps in the Soviet Union. Further, there are repeated reports that prisoners are used in various stages of the uranium industry.

In light of our knowledge of the Soviet forced labor system and the Time magazine article specifically mentioning the use of forced labor in a previous nuclear contamination clean-up attempt, I would appreciate it if you would report back to me on any information you may have on the use of forced labor by the Soviet Union in the past. In addition, I would appreciate it if your agency would closely monitor the Chernobyl clean-up efforts to ascertain if forced labor is used.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Best regards.

Sincerely,



William L. Armstrong

WLA:w1



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